

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Non-elected claims 3 and 4 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended, and claims 5 and 6 are added (claim 6 is withdrawn for being dependent from non-elected subject matter). Support for the amendments and the new claims may be found, for example, in the specification at Examples 1-4. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§102/103

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over JP 09-276708 ("JP '708"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a filter catalyst comprising a catalytic layer formed on a surface of a catalyst-support substrate, wherein forming the catalytic layer comprises removing excess slurry by repeating a pressure fluctuation at both ends of the catalyst-support substrate. Thus, the catalytic layer is formed on the surface of the catalyst-support substrate by applying a coating slurry to the catalyst-support substrate, generating a pressure difference between both opposite ends of the catalyst-support substrate (corresponding to the air blowing or drying process of JP '708), and equalizing the pressures between the opposite ends of the catalyst-support substrate. See specification at paragraph [0060]. Such limitations, particularly removing the excess slurry by repeating the pressure fluctuation at both ends of the catalyst-support substrate, impart high uniformity of the catalytic layer in the filter catalyst and, in turn, sufficient openings of ventilation holes in the catalytic layer to allow exhaust gases to pass freely. See specification, Table 1; and paragraphs [0003], [0039] and [0098]. JP '708

does not disclose and would not have rendered obvious the claim features for at least the following reasons.

JP '708 teaches a catalyst comprising a coating layer of activated alumina slurry, wherein the coating slurry is coated so that the fine porous pores of the filter cell side wall is not sealed, and the particle diameter of slurry is smaller than that of filter fine pores. See JP '708 at paragraphs [0012] - [0016]. Upon coating the slurry, excess slurry is removed by an air blower or air cleaner in order to equally disperse the slurry without sealing the filter fine pores. See JP '708 at paragraph [0015]. For example, the porous cordierite honeycomb structures are completely soaked in the active alumina slurry of A through F (wash coating), and the excessively adhered slurry is completely removed by the air cleaner and compressed air. See JP '708 at paragraph [0024]. By repeating such a coating process, activated alumina coating honeycomb structures, each coated with the six kinds of slurries, A through F, and weighing about 65g/liter are prepared. *Id.* Thus, the coating layer of JP '708 is formed by repeating a two-step process: (1) applying a coating slurry of activated alumina, and (2) removing excess coating slurry by air blowing or drawing. See JP '708, Abstract and paragraphs [0015] and [0024]; March 30, 2010 Request for Reconsideration at pages 2-3 (describing that the step of removing excess slurry is different in making the claimed filter catalyst and the catalyst of JP '708). The catalyst of JP '708 is not produced by removing the excess slurry by repeating the pressure fluctuation at both ends of the catalyst-support substrate and, thus, does not form a uniform coating layer.

In fact, the specification describes that a catalytic layer manufactured by a "blowing and drawing" method, such as the catalytic layer of JP '708, does not form a uniform coating layer. See specification at paragraph [0082]; and Table 1. As indicated in Table 1 of the specification, the claimed catalytic layer is formed more uniformly on the surface of the catalyst-support substrate as compared to the catalytic layer of the Comparative Example.

Thus, the catalytic layer of JP '708 is not uniformly coated and cannot have sufficient openings of ventilation holes in the catalytic layer to allow exhaust gases to pass freely.

Furthermore, as discussed further below, the recited catalytic layer is capable of being formed in a loading amount of 150g/1-liter to 200g/1-liter apparent volume of the catalyst-support substrate. See specification, Examples 1-4. The claimed filter catalyst maintains a highly uniform catalytic layer despite such a high loading amount due to the claim features discussed above. The catalytic layer of JP '708 is formed with the loading amount of 67g/liter (activated alumina slurry in the amount of 65g/liter and Pt in the amount of 2g/liter), which is significantly lower than the claimed catalytic layer. See JP '708 at paragraph [0024]. The catalytic layer of JP '708 cannot sustain a loading amount of 150g/1-liter to 200g/1-liter because it does not remove excess slurry by repeating the pressure fluctuation at both ends of the catalyst-support substrate.

For at least these reasons, JP '708 does not anticipate and would not have rendered obvious claim 1. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and, thus, also is not anticipated and would not have been rendered obvious by JP '708 for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. New Claim

By this Amendment, new claim 5 is presented. New claim 5 depends from claim 1 and, thus, distinguishes over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Furthermore, claim 5 requires that the catalytic layer be formed in a loading amount of 150g/1-liter to 200g/1-liter apparent volume of the catalyst-support substrate. As discussed above, the catalytic layer of JP '708 is formed with the loading amount of 67g/liter (activated alumina slurry in the amount of 65g/liter and Pt in the amount of 2g/liter). See JP '708 at paragraph [0024]. Thus, JP '708 does not teach a filter catalyst having a catalytic layer

formed in a loading amount of 150g/1-liter to 200g/1-liter apparent volume of the catalyst-support substrate.

Accordingly, prompt examination and allowance of new claim 5 are respectfully requested.

III. Rejoinder

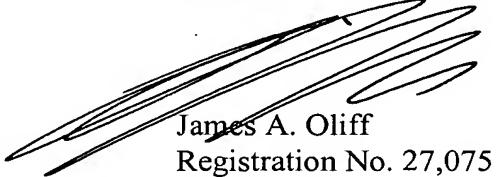
Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of non-elected method claims 3, 4 and 6. Because process claims 3, 4 and 6 include substantially all the limitations of product claim 1, process claims 3, 4 and 6 should be rejoined with the product claim when the product claim is found allowable. Because the product claim is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and rejoinder of claims 3, 4 and 6.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

Date: October 4, 2010

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